

Benefice of St Nicholas Newport and St Michael and All Angels, Chetwynd

Newsletter 18/1/26

Musings

Sunday 18th January marks the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It seems remarkable that as Christians we all share in the same faith yet there are so many divisions and denominations. We all have preferences for how we like to worship and over time these develop into church traditions. And traditions can become more important than faith. Jesus warned the Pharisees about their outward show being more important than God's teaching, especially as regards loving one's neighbour (Matt 23). And yet divisions between the followers of Jesus have, over the centuries, led to wars between countries and within countries. And this is not always centuries ago, remember the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

We thank God that there are now more moves to build bridges. More discussions between church leaders, more times when church members come together. More opportunities to see that there is more that joins us together than there is that separates us.

The World Council of Churches organises this one week each year when internationally churches will pray for each other and for closer unity. This year the prayers and services have been produced by the Armenian Apostolic Church, a member of the community of Orthodox Churches. In Newport our churches will meet for a combined service on Sunday 18th January in St Nicholas Church and during the following week there will be prayer stations and displays in the church. An opportunity for us to worship together and to meet up with old friends and make new ones. We pray for God's blessing on us all.

Sandra

This week beginning 18/1/26:

St Michael and All Angels

Sunday No service

St Nicholas

Sunday 10.30am Combined Service
Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion
(*Common Worship*)

Next week 25/1/26:

St Michael and All Angels

Sunday 9.00am Holy Communion

St Nicholas

Sunday 10.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 10.30am Morning Prayer

Readings: 18/1/26 Isaiah 49:1-7, John 1:29-42
25/1/26 Isaiah 9:1-4, Matthew 4:12-23

Combined Service

There will be a combined church service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in St Nicholas Church on **Sunday 18th January** at 10.30am. Refreshments will be served from 10.00am. All are welcome to come together to joyfully worship.

Lunches

The Ladies and Gentleman's Lunches will be on **Friday 23rd January at 12.30pm**. the ladies will meet at Gunero's and the gentlemen at the New Inn. All welcome, please add your name to the appropriate list on the noticeboard in St Nicholas church.

We pray for continued dialogue between all the churches and that, with God's help, we may grow ever closer.

We remember in our prayers: Jenny and John, Jo and Mike, Joyce and Geoff, Gill and all the Howard family.

We remember too the families of Pauline Heyes and Lesley Green.

Pauline's funeral is in St Nicholas church at 11.00am On **Tuesday 20th January** and Lesley's funeral is a St Andrew's church, Church Aston at 1.00am **on Tuesday 20th January**.

'How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!'
Psalm 133, verse 1